

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

### IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) **Method A method** for producing a fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, **said method** comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- providing a nozzle body ~~in-which~~ **having** a valve needle with a stop **[[is]]** displaceably disposed **therein**,

- providing a nozzle holder ~~in-which~~ **having** a pressure pin **[[is]]** displaceably disposed **therein**, and

- providing a disk-shaped stop element in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, **said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein**,

- axially tensioning the nozzle body and the nozzle holder against one another **[[in]]** such ~~a way~~ that the stop element forms a first sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle body section, and

- producing at least one cutout in the two sealing surfaces in a single manufacturing operation.

2. (Currently Amended) **Method A method** according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout is **a** punched, drilled ~~and/or~~ **or** stamped **cutout**.

3. (Currently Amended) **Method A method** according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing surface.

4. (Currently Amended) **Method A method** according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of deepening the cutout by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing ~~surface~~ **surfaces**.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the cutout in ~~[[the]]~~ an edge region of the stop element.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ A fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, said nozzle comprising:

- a nozzle body ~~in which~~ having a valve needle with a stop ~~[[is]]~~ displaceably disposed therein,

- a nozzle holder ~~in which~~ having a pressure pin ~~[[is]]~~ displaceably disposed therein,  
and

- a disk-shaped stop element ~~which is~~ provided in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein, wherein

- the nozzle body and the nozzle holder ~~being~~ are axially tensioned against one another ~~[[in]]~~ such ~~a way~~ that the stop element forms a first sealing surface ~~which bears bearing~~ bearing on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface ~~which bears bearing~~ bearing on a nozzle body section, wherein the first and the second sealing surfaces each incorporate at least one cutout for ~~the purpose of~~ increasing the contact pressure of the sealing surfaces, and ~~wherein~~ the ~~bilateral~~ cutouts being implemented evenly opposite one another in the sealing surfaces.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing ~~surface~~ surfaces.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout is deepened by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing surface.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ A fuel injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout is provided in ~~[[the]]~~ an edge region of the stop element.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for manufacturing a fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- displaceably disposing a valve needle with a stop ~~displaceably~~ within a nozzle body,
- displaceably disposing a pressure pin ~~displaceably~~ within a nozzle holder,
- providing a disk-shaped stop element in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein,
- axially tensioning the nozzle body and the nozzle holder against one another ~~[[in]]~~ such ~~a way~~ that the stop element forms a first sealing surface ~~which bears~~ bearing on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface ~~which bears~~ bearing on a nozzle body section, and
- producing at least one cutout in the two sealing surfaces in a single manufacturing operation.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout is a punched, drilled ~~and/or~~ or stamped cutout.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing surface.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of deepening the cutout by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing ~~surface~~ surfaces.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of providing ~~[[the]]~~ an cutout in the edge region of the stop element.